

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to
the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as
Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the
Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to
worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy
and scatter the sheep of my pasture!
says the LORD. Therefore thus
says the LORD, the God of Israel,
concerning the shepherds who
shepherd my people: It is you who
have scattered my flock, and have
driven them away, and you have not
attended to them. So I will attend
to you for your evil doings, says the
LORD. Then I myself will gather the
remnant of my flock out of all the
lands where I have driven them,
and I will bring them back to their
fold, and they shall be fruitful and
multiply. I will raise up shepherds
over them who will shepherd them,
and they shall not fear any longer,
or be dismayed, nor shall any be
missing, says the LORD. The days are
surely coming, says the LORD, when
I will raise up for David a righteous
Branch, and he shall reign as king
and deal wisely, and shall execute
justice and righteousness in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved and
Israel will live in safety. And this is
the name by which he will be called:
"The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 46

R *The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our
stronghold.*

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;
Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be
toppled
into the depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at
its tumult. **R**

There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of
day.

The nations make much ado
and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken and the earth shall
melt away. **R**

Come now and look upon the works
of the Lord,
what awesome things he has done
on earth.
It is he who makes war to cease in all
the world;
he breaks the bow and shatters the
spear
and burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, then, and know that I am
God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth." **R**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:11-20

*A reading from the letter of Paul to
the Colossians.*

Brothers and sisters: May you be
made strong with all the strength
that comes from his glorious power,
and may you be prepared to endure
everything with patience, while
joyfully giving thanks to the Father,
who has enabled you to share in the
inheritance of the saints in the light.
He has rescued us from the power
of darkness and transferred us into
the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins. He is the image
of the invisible God, the firstborn of
all creation; for in him all things in
heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible, whether
thrones or dominions or rulers
or powers – all things have been
created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things, and
in him all things hold together. He is
the head of the body, the church; he
is the beginning, the firstborn from
the dead, so that he might come
to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell, and through
him God was pleased to reconcile
to himself all things, whether on
earth or in heaven, by making peace
through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.*

When they came to the place that
is called The Skull, they crucified
Jesus there with the criminals, one
on his right and one on his left. Then
Jesus said, "Father, forgive them;
for they do not know what they are
doing." And they cast lots to divide
his clothing. And the people stood
by, watching; but the leaders scoffed
at him, saying, "He saved others; let
him save himself if he is the Messiah
of God, his chosen one!" The
soldiers also mocked him, coming
up and offering him sour wine, and
saying, "If you are the King of the
Jews, save yourself!" There was
also an inscription over him, "This is
the King of the Jews." One of the
criminals who were hanged there
kept deriding him and saying, "Are
you not the Messiah? Save yourself
and us!" But the other rebuked him,
saying, "Do you not fear God, since
you are under the same sentence
of condemnation? And we indeed
have been condemned justly, for
we are getting what we deserve for
our deeds, but this man has done
nothing wrong." Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me when you
come into your kingdom." Jesus
replied, "Truly I tell you, today you
will be with me in Paradise."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously
rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.